

HO-576
Wilde Lake Barn (Oakland Manor Barn)
Columbia

1876

The stone barn on the bank of Wilde Lake in Columbia, Maryland bears a plaque which was dedicated by the American Society of Agricultural Engineers in 1976 and reads: "Designated a Historic Landmark of Agricultural Engineering. At Oakland Manor in 1876, Francis Morris built brick silos in his barn and introduced the practice of making corn silage in the U.S. His further experiments developed the use of earthen trenches and thereby significantly contributed to the development of American agriculture."

Although Fred Hatch of Spring Grove, Illinois is honored as having built the first vertical silo in the United States (1873), Francis Morris has the distinction of having built the first trench silos (underground).

The following paragraphs are excerpts from an article in the May, 1977 issue of Agricultural Engineering (p. 23):

Francis Morris, a Maryland Farmer who owned and operated the 1500-acre farm called Oakland Manor, became widely recognized in the late nineteenth century for his successful work in preserving silage in trench silos. . . . While those first trench silos Morris designed and had constructed are long gone, many of the original farm buildings are still in use.

Morris, a New York banker turned agriculturalist, experimented for 10 years with ensiled corn and its feeding. He opened his farm to all who wanted to learn more of this emerging technique and was active in publicizing it across the nation.

In 1876 Morris had learned of a technique the French used to preserve Indian corn or maize by burying the cut stalks in trenches. Specifically Morris had followed a system described by a Monsieur A. Goffart in his book, "Culture and Ensilage of Maize." Anaerobic conditions were achieved in the trench by trampling the cut stalks to compress them, then covering the trench with boards covered with straw and tightly packed clay.

When he died in 1886 there were five trench silos at Oakland Manor -- one was 117 ft. long.

HO-32
District #5

Oakland Manor Barn
Robert Oliver's Carriage House

Location: 5410 Leaf Treader Way
Columbia, Maryland 21044

Class: District Owners: Private Status: Occupied Access to
Public: Unrestricted

Present Use: Education/Religion

Owner of Property: Kittamaquindi Community, Inc.
5410 Leaf Treader Way
Columbia, Maryland 21044

Location of Legal Description: Record's Office
Howard County Courthouse
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Title Reference: Map 30, Blk 20, p. 303 5-96-559
Title Survey: Howard County Historic Sites Inventory
Date: September 1976

Location of Records: Maryland Historical Trust
2 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland

Condition: Excellent Status of Building: Altered Original Site

OAKLAND MANOR BARN

Description

This stone masonry barn is characterized by doorways set into shallow blind roman arches, decorated with ashlar stretcher stone lintels on its north and south facades and windows and doorways set into shallow blind gothic arches on its east and west facades.

Presently two and a half stories high it was originally a single story barn. It is set on a stone foundation three bays wide and two bays deep facing north. It's present gabled roof and dormers were constructed in the 1940's and replaced the gable roof which covered the central bay and ran north-south with a lower roof covering the east and west bays which dipped in the middle and sloped east and west to provide drainage for the roof. The original line of the roof may be seen in the masonry on the east and west interior walls of the building. A parapet was located on the east and west facade flush with the walls.

Presently a wide shed roofed dormer window of 1940 vintage takes up the entire middle bay of the north and south facades, its north and south walls lying flush with the north and south walls of the barn. Each dormer holds a square window, one on each side of a recessed horizontal rectangle.

A central rectangular double south entrance door is set into a recessed Roman arch, which was originally open, but now is closed. A one lite circular window rests above the entrance and is decorated with ashlar stretcher stones along its circumference. A full arched stone lintel decorates the recessed arch, while a horizontal rectangular one lite casement window flanks each side of the circular window and a first floor vertical rectangular one lite casement window with flat arched stretcher stone lintel lies on each side of the central north entrance.

The east and west bays of the north elevation are identical to the central bay with the following exceptions: (1) there is no circular window above the entrance door and the full arched stone lintels are segmental rather than round arched. The gabled roof which runs east-west extends below the central dormer whose north wall lies flush with the buildings' north wall. Inset into the center of the roof of the east and west bays of both the north and south elevations are shed roofed dormer windows holding a horizontal rectangular tri partite window consisting of three one lite casement windows. The east, west and north walls of the dormer are of wood frame construction while the sashes are of cypress.

A gabled roof (running east-west) cupola sits on the apex of the roof in the center of the east and west bays, smaller in scale than the central bay cupola but identical to it in every other respect, namely: (1) its wood frame pyramidal base construction (2) its four wooden posts which rise from the base to support the gabled roof and hold one lite horizontal rectangular windows on the north and south elevation and

Oakland Manor Barn
(Continued) -3-

wooden lintels and sills.

The central gothic recess, imperceptably larger in scale holds a rectangular entrance door.

A cement side walk runs along the east and north walls of the building with concrete stairs descending on the east and west bays of the north facade to a parking lot. A concrete patio whose base consists of R R ties lies on the west side at the north west corner of the building. The pleasant landscaping was executed by Mr. Cy Paumier, a well known planning consultant and landscape architect.

The interior central bay is used for worship services while the west bay is used for offices with stalls of 1900 vintage providing the dividers.

The only structural addition in the central bay is a steel plate running along the sheathing on each side of two supporting beams.

OAKLAND MANOR BARN

Significance

The significance of the Oakland Manor Barn or Oliver Carriage House lies in both its architecture and its history.

Architecturally it is an exceedingly well constructed and well designed structure rivaling the Carriage House of Oakdale in the western part of Howard County.

The altered roof line only serves to enhance the fine stone work and rich detail of the barn walls, creating a symmetry and scale all its own which does not complete but rather complements the existing stone fabric.

The use of roman arched recesses holding rectangular apertures and the use of varied geometrical shapes such as squares, vertical rectangles and horizontal rectangles all add interest and afford variety to the facade of the building.

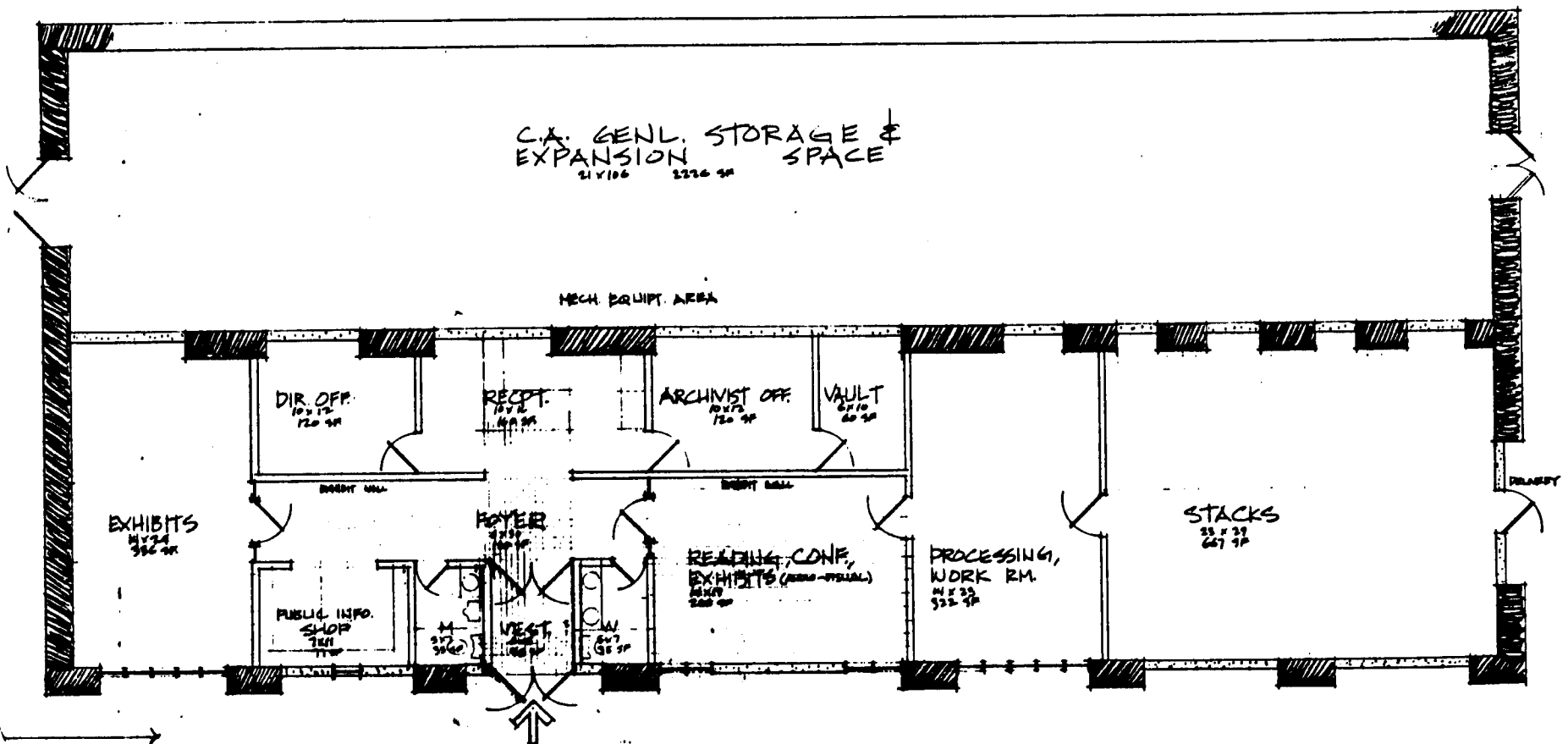
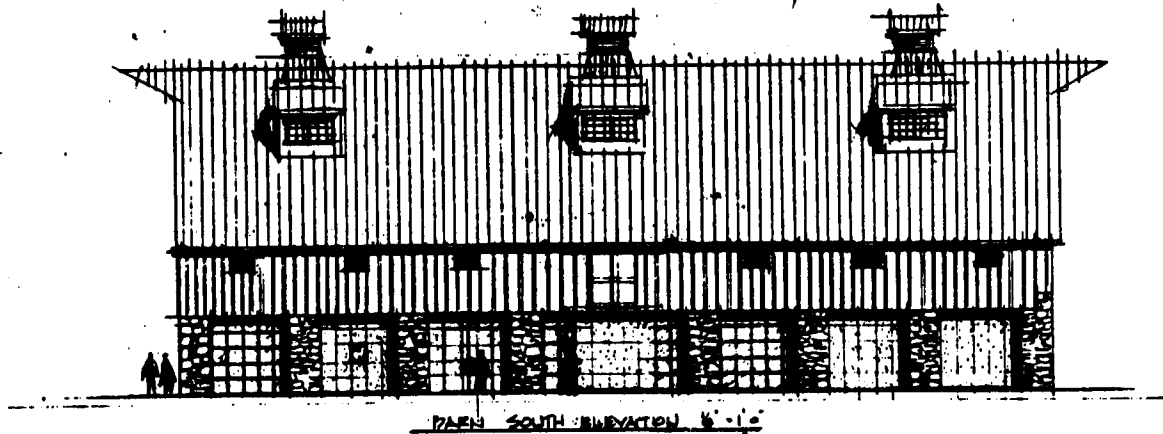
The tasteful restoration of this barn undertaken by the Kittamaquidi Community with the aid of able planners, architects and landscape architects has further added to the significance of this structure, modernizing, cleaning out and simplifying its features. An example of the latter is the leveling of the first floor which was originally in three levels; the west bay a concrete floor which fell four inches to another concrete floor in the central bay which in turn fell four to six inches to a dirt floor in the east bay. All this was rectified by tearing out the concrete floors, leveling the east bay floor and installing heating ducts under the presently constructed floor creating a level first floor.

Recycled for religious and educational use by the Kittamaquidi Community has given this marvelous structure a future and new life.

The large second floor east and west windows will enhance the plan for the east and west interior loft areas, offering light and a scenic view to areas planned to be utilized by seminar groups.

Two hundred and fifty thousand dollars has already been expended on the renovation of this structure.

Not only money, but careful planning and restoration techniques have been involved in this marvelous effort by a private group. It is noteworthy architecturally and historically and should most certainly be included in the National Register of Historic Places as Oliver's Carriage House.



MUSEUM & ARCHIVES of the HISTORY of COLUMBIA

24 x 106 2496 sq

HO-576
Wilde Lake Barn
(Oakland Manor Barn)

39°15'

2.3 MI. 10 U.S. 40

2.2 MI.

4345000m N.

HIGHLAND 6.6 MI.
ELIOAK 0.7 MI.

4343

HO-576
Wilde Lake Barn
(Oakland Manor Barn)
Savage Quad, 1957, PR 1966

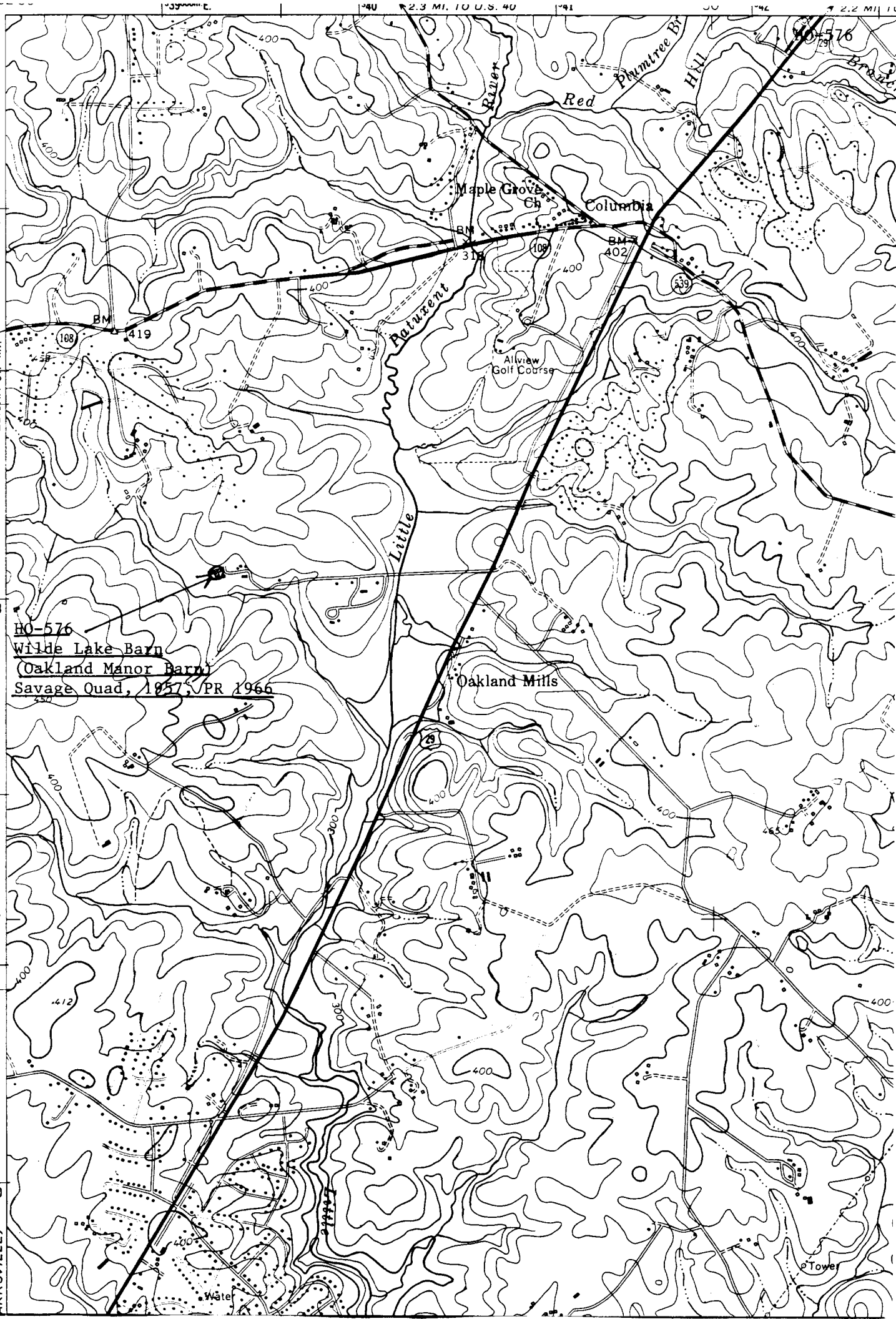
4342

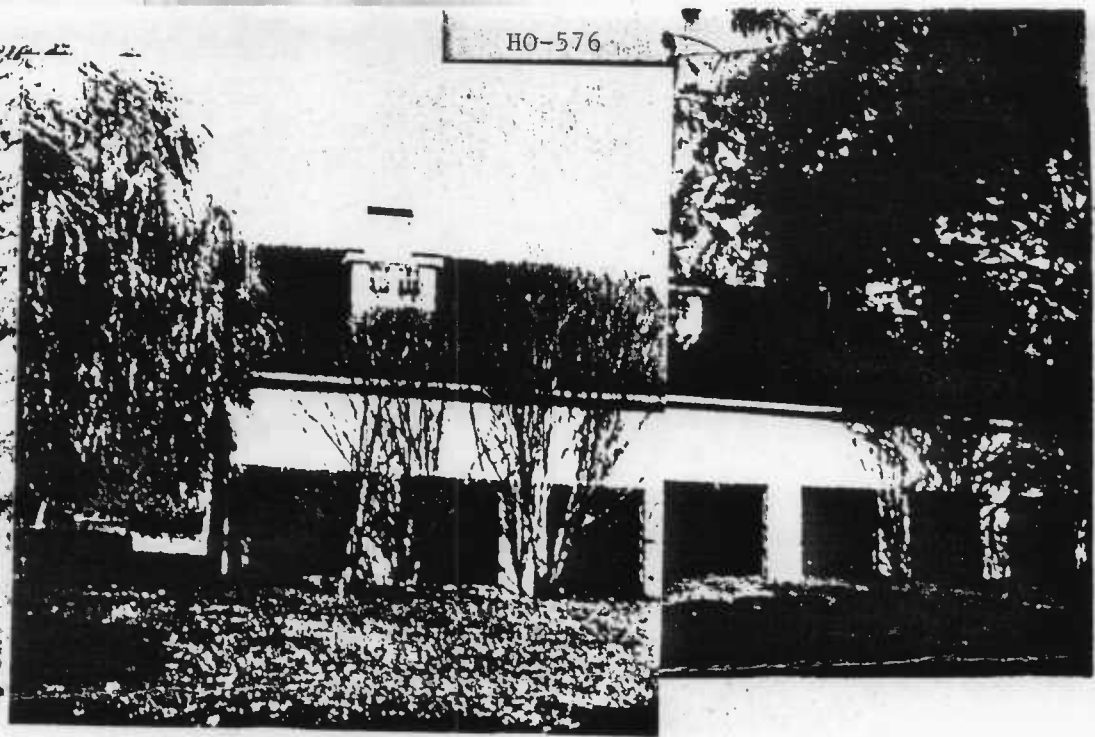
12°30''

4341

4340

662 III NW
ARKSVILLE

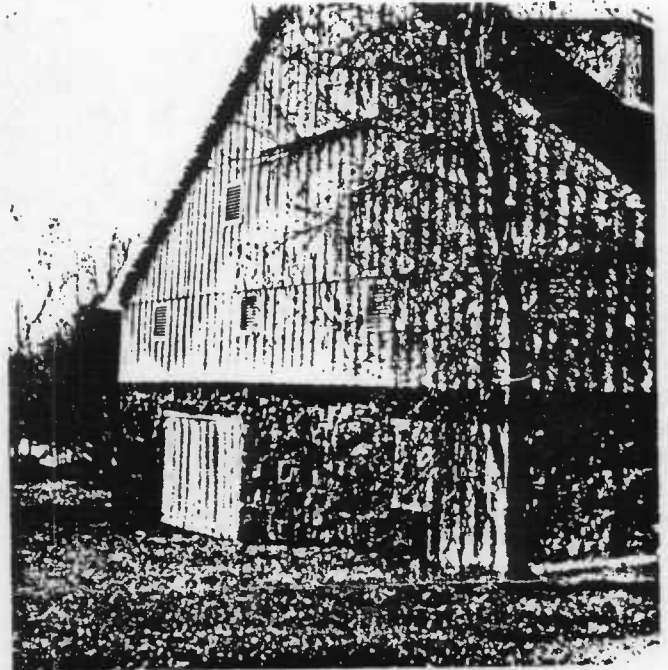




LAKE VIEW - SOUTH



WEST SIDE



EAST SIDE

Designated a Historic Landmark of Agricultural Engineering
At Oakland Manor in 1876, Francis Morris built brick silos
in his barn and introduced the practice of making corn
silage in the U.S. His further experiments developed the
use of earthen trenches and thereby significantly contributed
to the development of American agriculture.

Dedicated by American Society of Agricultural Engineers, 1976

(text of plaque)



DIST 5 HO-32
OAKLAND BARN
C B THOMPSON